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POLAND: Suspending Martial Law

A senior Polish diplomat in Moscow has told [REDACTED] that Poland's parliament on Monday will "suspend" martial law--effective on 23 December--and that the regime hopes to lift it completely by next July. [REDACTED]

Several diplomatic sources indicate Warsaw has sent a similar message to all its embassies. The diplomat said Poland will be looking for the US to respond by taking some conciliatory action. [REDACTED]

Other Polish representatives abroad have told US officials there will be no general amnesty, but most internees will be freed. In addition, some activists jailed for martial law violations will be given clemency. [REDACTED]

Comment: The regime's decision to wait 10 days after the announcement before suspending martial law may reflect concern about possible demonstrations on 16 December--the day Solidarity has called for peaceful commemoration of workers and miners killed in past clashes with police. Premier Jaruzelski presumably hopes the announcement will encourage Polish citizens to avoid protests. [REDACTED]

The regime probably has ruled out total amnesty at this time because of security concerns and because it does not want to appear to be responding directly to pressure from the West. Jaruzelski's pragmatic attitude may have been reinforced by Soviet opposition to the release of the more radical detainees. [REDACTED]

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